GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1735
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2003
GROWTH OF AGRICULTURE
CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have targeted a growth rate of 8 per cent during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether during the last five years the agriculture has grown by only 2 per cent;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure agricultural growth at 8 per cent during the said Plan?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (d): The Tenth Plan overall growth rate is targeted at 8 per cent per annum. For agriculture the targeted annual growth rate is 4 per cent. During the last five years ending 2001-02 value addition in the Agriculture Sector grew at the average annual growth rate of 1.8 per cent. The year to year fluctuations observed during this period were largely due to changes in weather conditions.

In order to facilitate in the achievement of the targeted growth in agriculture, various crop production schemes like Integrated Cereals Development Programmes for Rice, Wheat and CoarseCereals, National Pulses Development Programme, SponsoredOilseeds Production Programme and Seed Minikit Scheme are being implemented during the Tenth Plan. To reduce water run-off from major catchment areas, improve land capability and moisture regime the Government are implementing the schemes, `Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands inCatchments of River Valley Projects/ Flood Prone Rivers` and `Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas`. Besides, the Regionally Differentiated Strategy adopted during the Ninthplan would be continued during the Tenth plan. As a new initiative, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme `On Farm Water Management for Increasing Crop Production in Eastern India`has been launched in March, 2002 for the year 2001-02 and the Tenth Five Year Plan. The objective of the scheme is to exploit ground/surface water and promote efficient water utilization and management for increasing crop production in eastern India. Apart from these, the Government have launched various otherinitiatives such as emphasis on developing and promoting new technologies, measures for increasing availability of agricultural credit, Market Information Network, National Agriculture Insurance Scheme etc. The Government also encourage farmers to increase production through price policy which includes implementation of Minimum Support Price, procurement by public agencies etc.